

**CCoA**  
California Commission on Aging

# AGE WATCH

## New Report Finds Increased Rate of Older Adult Hunger

New research from the AARP Foundation finds that nearly 9 million Americans over age 50 are at risk of hunger. Up 79% since 2001, the increased rate of hunger in the older population is attributed to impacts of the recession on primarily middle class older adults. The Foundation reported that from 2007 to 2009, the greatest growth in food insecurity was for older adults with annual incomes twice the poverty level. When broken down by demographic group, the research found that the risk of hunger was double for older African Americans and Hispanics than for whites. To read the full report, go to [www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/](http://www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/). *Information provided by the AARP Foundation and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development*

## NCOA Promotes Pledge to Protect the Older Americans Act

*The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is asking members of Congress to sign a pledge to Protect and Strengthen the Older Americans Act. Part of NCOA's "One Away" campaign to show the tenuous nature of older adults' economic security, the organization aims to demonstrate how many older adults rely on Older Americans Act programs such as congregate meals, caregiver supports and more. NCOA is urging the public to contact Congress to urge their representatives to sign on.*

*The pledge outlines the range of community-based services and supports made available through the Older Americans Act and the importance of those programs to protecting the health, well-being and independence of elders throughout the nation. To learn more or to e-mail your congressperson directly, go to <http://www.oneaway.org/pledge>.*



## Senior Center Forum Registration Opens

Registration for the second Statewide Senior Center Stakeholder Forum is now underway. “Centers of Today ... Investing in Tomorrow” is the theme for the second statewide Senior Center Stakeholder Forum, to be held Monday, November 14, 2011 in Los Angeles. The Forum will feature nationally renowned speakers, inspiring break-out sessions and networking opportunities for Senior Center staff, stakeholders, senior service providers and more. Registration is free, but you must register to attend. For more information or to register, please visit [www.ccoa.ca.gov](http://www.ccoa.ca.gov).

Registration is filling up fast so please register soon!

## Social Security Advocates Express Concerns over Congressional Super Committee

*A recent release from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security (NCPSS) expressed concerns that some members of the Deficit Super committee believe that cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are solutions to the national deficit crisis. “Repeated statements that these programs are the primary drivers of our current debt, contrary to the facts, do a disservice to the process and impede finding real solutions to the real problems. .. Conflating current debt and future obligations is a political strategy designed to target these programs to pay the price for years of failed fiscal policies and tax cuts for the wealthy,” said Max Richtman, President/CEO of the National Committee.*



*The National Committee argues that American workers have established a \$2.6 trillion dollar Social Security trust fund to pay future retirement costs. Recent projections from the Congressional Budget Office show that Social Security can pay full benefits through the year 2038 and slightly more than 80 percent of scheduled benefits in subsequent years. “The challenges facing Medicare are more immediate,” Mr. Richtman added. The NCPSS believes that focusing on Social Security and Medicare would divert the attention of the Super Committee from the true causes of the nation’s deficit. For further information, visit the National Committee website at [www.ncpssm.org](http://www.ncpssm.org).*

*Information provided by Carroll Estes, Board Chair of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security.*

For additional information on Social Security: <http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/ppi/econ-sec/fs235.pdf>

## TACC Elects New Officers

The Triple-A Council of California (TACC) held annual elections in July, re-electing President Marge Warner (Sonora) and Secretary/Treasurer Antonio Rodella (Anaheim) and electing new Vice President Vicky Ludwig (Placerville).

TACC represents the leadership of California's 33 Area Agency on Aging Advisory Councils, providing educational briefings, presentations and networking opportunities to strengthen the capacity of Advisory Councils at the local level.



TACC President Marge Warner

## States Graded on Long-Term Care Services in Newly-released Scorecard

Minnesota, Washington and Oregon are the states ranked highest in their delivery of long-term care services for the elderly and persons with disabilities, according to a newly-released scorecard from the SCAN Foundation, the AARP Public Policy Institute and the Commonwealth Fund. *"Raising Expectations: A State Scorecard on Long-Term Services and Supports for Older Adults, People with Physical Disabilities, and Family Caregivers"* examines four key dimensions of state long-term service and support systems, including affordability and access, choice of setting and provider, quality of life and of care, and support for family caregivers.

The research found notable variation across the nation in the quality of long-term services and supports delivery, but concluded that even the top-ranking states had room for improvement in the areas of assisted living, home care, nursing home care, family caregiver supports, and in efficiencies in LTSS expenditures. The scorecard ranks California 15th in overall quality of services, 7th in affordability and access, 9th for choice of setting and provider, 39th in quality of life and quality of care, and 30th in support for family caregivers.

To read the full report, click on [www.longtermscorecard.org](http://www.longtermscorecard.org)

*Excerpted from a September 9, 2011 announcement from the National Alliance for Caregiving*

## Upcoming Events

Mental Health in Aging Conference; Thursday, October 20, 2011, Sacramento. *The 3R's of Elder Financial Abuse*. For information, e-mail [SACMHOlderAdultCo@saccounty.net](mailto:SACMHOlderAdultCo@saccounty.net)

California Statewide Taskforce on Oral Health for People with Special Needs; October 21, 2011, Sheraton Grand Sacramento. Please call 415.749.3384 or email [dwright@pacific.edu](mailto:dwright@pacific.edu) for information. .

California Senior Legislature 2011 Annual Session, October 24 – 27, 2011 in Sacramento.

Statewide Senior Center Stakeholder Forum, November 14, 2011, Los Angeles. [www.ccoa.ca.gov](http://www.ccoa.ca.gov) to register.

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

**California Commission on  
Aging**

**Havard L. Staggs**, Chair  
Jackson

**Donna Ueland**, Vice Chair  
Fresno

**Commissioners**

**Donna Benton**  
Los Angeles

**Bert Bettis**  
Wilton

**Constance Chang**  
Oakland

**Rafael Cosio**  
West Hollywood

**Jim Davis**  
Eureka

**Michael DeNunzio**  
Walnut Creek

**Lucille Fisher**  
San Francisco

**Karen Josephson**  
Long Beach

**Henry "Hank" Lacayo**  
Newbury Park

**Marian Last**  
Rossmoor

**Richard Lundin**  
Benicia

**Barbara Mitchell**  
Riverside

**Sharon Monck**  
Rio Vista

**Virgie Walker**  
Carson

**California Commission on Aging staff:**  
Sandra Fitzpatrick, M.A., Executive Director  
Carol Sewell, Program Analyst on Aging  
Marcella Lopez, Administrative Assistant